

2020 Austin Climate Equity Plan

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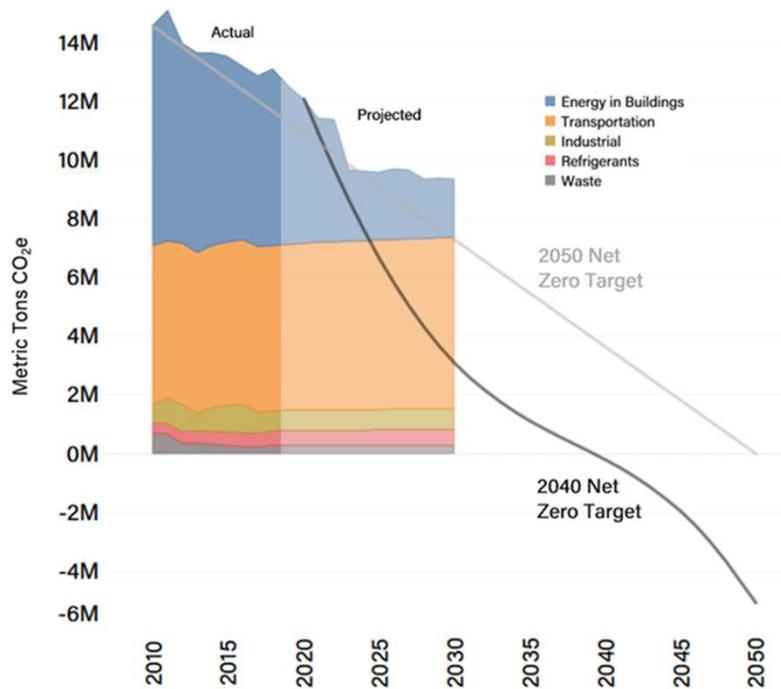
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Accelerates 2015 Austin Community Climate Plan's Net-Zero Carbon Goal

Net-zero by 2050 → Net-zero by 2040

Austin Community GHG Emissions



Net-zero GHG means the Austin community will reduce direct emissions as much as possible and then employ carbon offsets or carbon dioxide removal to cancel out any remaining emissions (up to 10% of baseline).



Adds Focus on Equity Impacts Of Climate Projections

- Low-income communities and communities of color are disproportionately affected by climate hazards
 - Experience climate shocks on top of existing economic stressors
 - Have less resources to bounce back from event
 - Suffer long-term impacts to mental and physical health



HIGHER TEMPERATURES



EXTENDED PERIODS OF DROUGHT

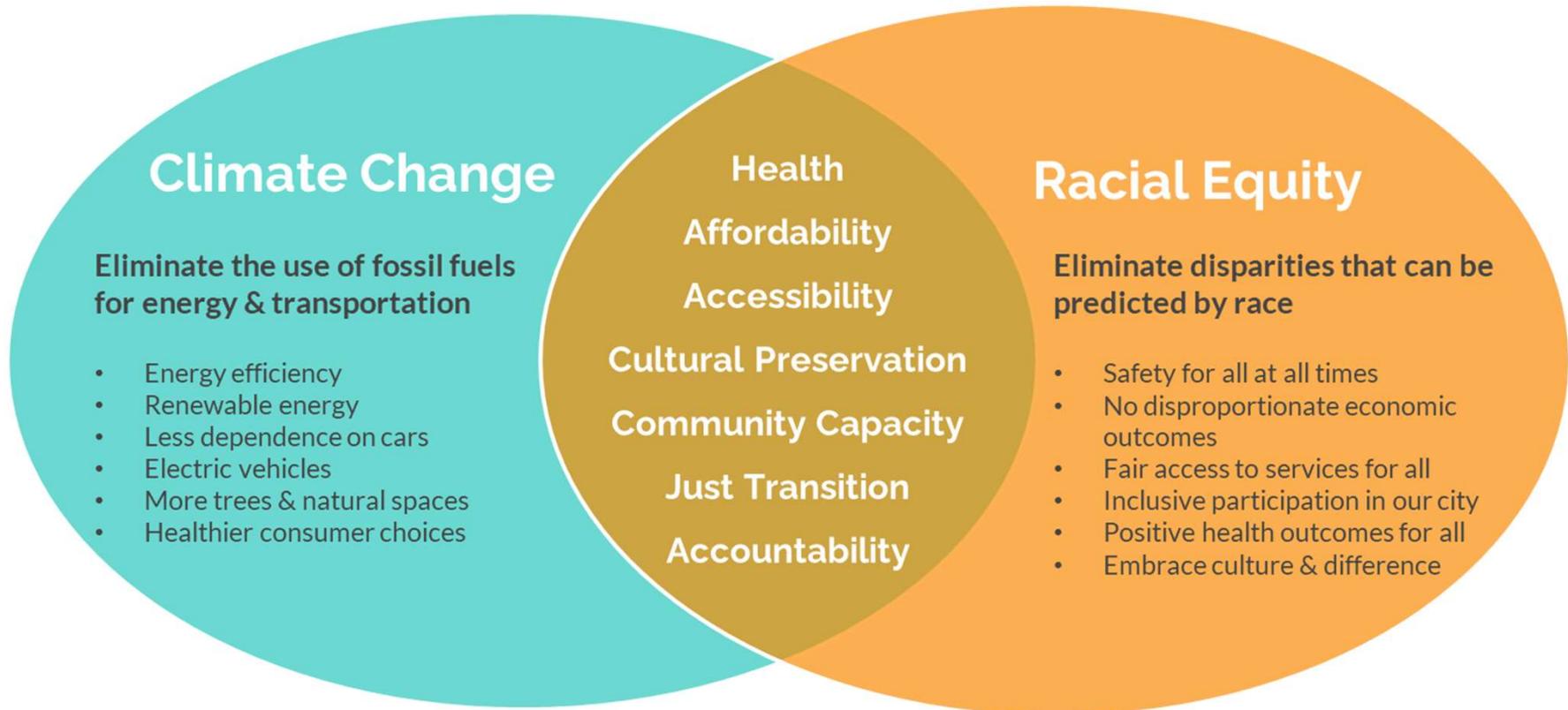


INCREASED RISK OF WILDFIRE



INTENSE RAIN AND FLOODING

Commits to Climate Equity



If we're not proactively addressing equity, we're perpetuating injustice.



Proposed Goals & Strategies Were Evaluated To Identify Opportunities To Improve Equity



Complements Established Sustainability-Related Plans

5 Plan Sections:

- Sustainable Buildings
- Transportation Electrification
- Transportation & Land Use
- Natural Systems
- Consumption



Austin Water Participated in Developing Strategies for Goal 4 of Sustainable Buildings Section:

By 2030, equitably achieve a community-wide water demand of approximately 152,000 acre-feet per year through implementation of Water Forward plan strategies

This Goal:

- Supports equitable implementation of Water Forward
- Is a straight-line interpolation between Water Forward's 2020 and 2040 water demand goals
- Was revised to clarify goal origins based on input received during comment period

Equity Highlights:

- Ensures clean and safe drinking water for future generations
- Lowers water utility bills
- Offers more inclusive outreach and education
- Reduces burden on existing residents, places responsibility on new building developers



Strategy 1: Engage residents in water efficiency technological transitions and conservation programs

Measures:

- Enhance community engagement strategies and create partnerships with community organizations to advance equity through Austin's Water Forward strategies, including My ATX Water (AW's Advanced Metering Infrastructure - AMI), incentives and ordinances.

How we'll get there:

- Collect, analyze and respond to demographic data on incentive program participation.
- Gather input on program experience, including low-income residents' experience with My ATX Water.
- Develop and implement targeted outreach efforts to enhance program participation, collect input and better engage residents in decision-making processes.



Strategy 2: Evaluate water conservation, customer assistance, and workforce development participation criteria

Measures:

- Evaluate program criteria to identify opportunities to address structural barriers that prevent program participation.
- Collaborate with City departments and/or community organizations to explore strategies to expand enrollment in the Customer Assistance Program and increase participation in other programs serving low-income customers.

How we'll get there:

- Undertake equity assessments of program design, including extending eligibility to multi-family properties, modifying existing repair programs, streamlining application processes and increasing outreach to qualified customers not currently enrolled in those programs.
- Create partnerships across City departments and/or with community organizations to enhance workforce development opportunities in water and green jobs.



Strategy 3: Reduce Emissions at the Water-Energy Nexus

Measures:

- Assess how the reduction of water demand is associated with energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings and Austin Water facilities.
- Identify and pursue synergistic water conservation and energy management optimization efforts through programs and partnerships.

How we'll get there:

- Complete an evaluation of energy usage across Austin Water facilities and develop a plan to reduce usage spikes and decrease demand.
- Develop methodologies to quantify how customer reduction in water demand also reduces the City's energy usage and related emissions.



AUSTIN CLIMATE EQUITY PLAN 2020

[Draft Full Plan for Public Comment 09-02-20]



Next Steps

- Draft plan anticipated to go before City Council on Nov 12
- After adoption, implementation planning process will begin
- Austin Water continues to implement established Water Forward strategies & will develop work plans for implementing new measures



Questions?

